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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ameliorating or treating endotoxin-mediated TNF- α production immune activation in acute or chronic heart failure in a human patient, the method comprising the steps of measuring the level of TNF- α , endotoxin or soluble CD 14 in the blood of a human patient and if any such level is elevated, administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a ursodeoxycholic acid, and or ursodeoxycholic acid in combination with diuretics.
2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the heart failure is an acute or chronic congestive heart failure due to cardiomyopathy of unknown reason, coronary artery disease, valvular disease, hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy, viral myocarditis or genetic cardiomyopathy or dilated cardiomyopathy.
- 3-16 (Cancelled)
17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ursodeoxycholic acid is able to inhibit the immune activation in the patients in response to endotoxin.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ursodeoxycholic acid is able to decrease the cytokine production in the patient in response to endotoxin.

19-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ursodeoxycholic acid is able to reduce the permeability of the gut wall to bacteria and/or endotoxin.

22-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ursodeoxycholic acid is administered orally.

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ursodeoxycholic acid is administered intravenously.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ursodeoxycholic acid administered rectally.

28-77 (Cancelled)

78. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising ursodeoxycholic acid and a diuretic.

79-81 (Cancelled)

82. (Cancelled)

83-84 (Cancelled)

85. (Cancelled)

86. (Cancelled)

87. (Cancelled)